

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft attached to ~~an~~ a vehicle body in such a way as to be in contact with the steering shaft to provide protection against dust and muddy water, comprising:

a cylindrical contact member that is to be in sliding contact with said steering shaft while said steering shaft is rotating; and

a cylindrical reinforcement member for reinforcing said cylindrical contact member provided radially outside the cylindrical contact member,

wherein a ~~low-friction~~ reducing material is attached, by coating or baking, to such a portion of said cylindrical contact member that is in contact with said steering shaft, or said cylindrical contact member itself is made of a ~~low-friction-member~~ reducing material.

2. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein said ~~low~~

friction reducing material is one of a fluorine series resin, molybdenum, graphite and ~~Teflon~~ polytetrafluoroethylene.

3. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

4. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical reinforcement member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

5. (Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft attached to a dash panel for a vehicle body in such a way as to be in contact with the steering shaft to provide protection against dust and muddy water, comprising:

an attachment portion for attaching the dust cover to the dash panel;

a cylindrical contact member that is to be in sliding contact with said steering shaft while said steering shaft is rotating; and

a plurality of bellows portions having elasticity provided between said cylindrical contact member and said attachment portion, each bellows portion being fixedly attached at an inner diameter side to the cylindrical contact member and at an outer diameter side to the attachment portion,

wherein a ~~low-friction~~ reducing material is attached, by coating or baking, to such a portion of said cylindrical contact member that is in contact with said steering shaft, or said cylindrical contact member itself is made of a ~~low-friction-member~~ reducing material.

6. (Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 5, wherein said ~~low-friction~~ reducing material is one of a fluorine series resin, molybdenum, graphite and ~~Teflon~~ polytetrafluoroethylene.

7. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 5, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in

contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft attached to ~~an~~a vehicle body in such a way as to be in contact with the steering shaft to provide protection against dust and muddy water, comprising:

a cylindrical metal member that is to be in sliding contact with said steering shaft while said steering shaft is rotating,

wherein a ~~low~~-friction reducing material is attached, by coating or baking, to such a portion of said cylindrical metal member that is in contact with said steering shaft.

10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 9, wherein said ~~low~~ friction reducing material is one of a fluorine series resin, molybdenum, graphite and ~~Teflon~~ polytetrafluoroethylene.

11. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 9, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

12. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 9, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical metal member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft attached to ~~an~~a vehicle body in such a way as to be in contact with the steering shaft to provide protection against dust and muddy water, comprising:

a cover side cylindrical contact member attached to said dust cover;

a cylindrical reinforcement member for reinforcing said cover side cylindrical contact member provided radially outside the cover side cylindrical contact member;

a shaft side cylindrical contact member attached to said steering shaft that is to be in sliding contact with said cover side cylindrical contact member.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 13, wherein a ~~low~~ friction reducing material is attached, by coating or baking, to at least one of such portions of said cylindrical contact members at which they are in contact, or at least one of said cylindrical contact members themselves is made of a ~~low~~-friction reducing material.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 14, wherein said ~~low~~ friction reducing material is one of a fluorine series resin, molybdenum, graphite and ~~Teflon~~ polytetrafluoroethylene.

16. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 13, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

17. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 13, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical

reinforcement member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

18. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 2, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

19. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 2, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical reinforcement member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

20. (Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim ~~[[6]]~~⁵, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 10, wherein said dust cover is

provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

23. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 10, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical metal member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

24. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 14, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

25. (Withdrawn) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 14, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical reinforcement member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

26. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 5, wherein a number of grooves extending in the axial direction are formed on the inner circumference of the cylindrical contact member.

27. (Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 7, wherein

~~a plurality of bellows portions having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical contact member and a portion attached to the vehicle body; and~~

said bellows portions and said lip portion are formed integrally.

28. (Withdrawn-Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 7, wherein

~~a plurality of bellows portions having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical contact member and a portion attached to the vehicle body; and~~

said cylindrical contact member and said bellows portions are formed integrally.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim ~~[[29]]~~5, wherein said ~~contact cylinder~~cylindrical contact member comprises a cylindrical portion integral with said bellows portions

and a sliding bushing formed on the inner side of the cylindrical portion.

31. (New) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 5, wherein opposite end portions of said cylindrical contact member are connected to respective ones of said plurality of bellows portions.